



Wildlife and Forestry Services & Pugdundee Safaris Present

Professional Naturalist Training Course

(PRONAT IV – 20th August to 10th September, 2021)

(Extension – 10th to 13th September, 2021)

Course Overview

Wildlife and Forestry Services in association with Pugdundee Safaris presents Professional Naturalist Training Course (PRONAT) for candidates who deeply desire to learn about nature and wildlife, or launch their professional careers as naturalists.

Every year when we receive applications for the position of a naturalist, it comes from two kinds of candidates – the ones who dream of becoming a naturalist and the others who are willing to give up their corporate jobs to explore the wilderness and follow the career path of a lodge naturalist. Therefore, PRONAT has been curated with belief that no prospect should be turned down for the lack (or presence) of a certain education background or domain experience.

As experienced lodge operators and wildlife professionals, we realize that the forest is a vast observatory for passionate nature lovers, but to succeed professionally as a naturalist, there are further requirements. To pursue career as a Naturalist, the following are a must –

- Appreciation towards all forms of nature.
- Knowledge of habitats and ecosystems.
- Ability to not just comprehend, but also interpret complexities of the forests in the simple terms.

PRONAT, is India's first-of-its-kind Professional Naturalist Training Program is conducted at Satpura's, Denwa Backwater Escape, by Pugdundee Safaris in association with Wildlife Forestry Services (WFS).

This twenty-one night's program conducted by experts in the field of wildlife and conservation, focuses to elevate passionate wildlife enthusiasts into professional naturalist. There is an additional 3 nights extension available for guiding techniques. With the completion of this program the participants will be equipped to be inducted as trainee or lodge naturalists in wildlife-based tourism sector, start leading nature-based tours, or simply learn how to appreciate nature from a wider lens.

The program offers–

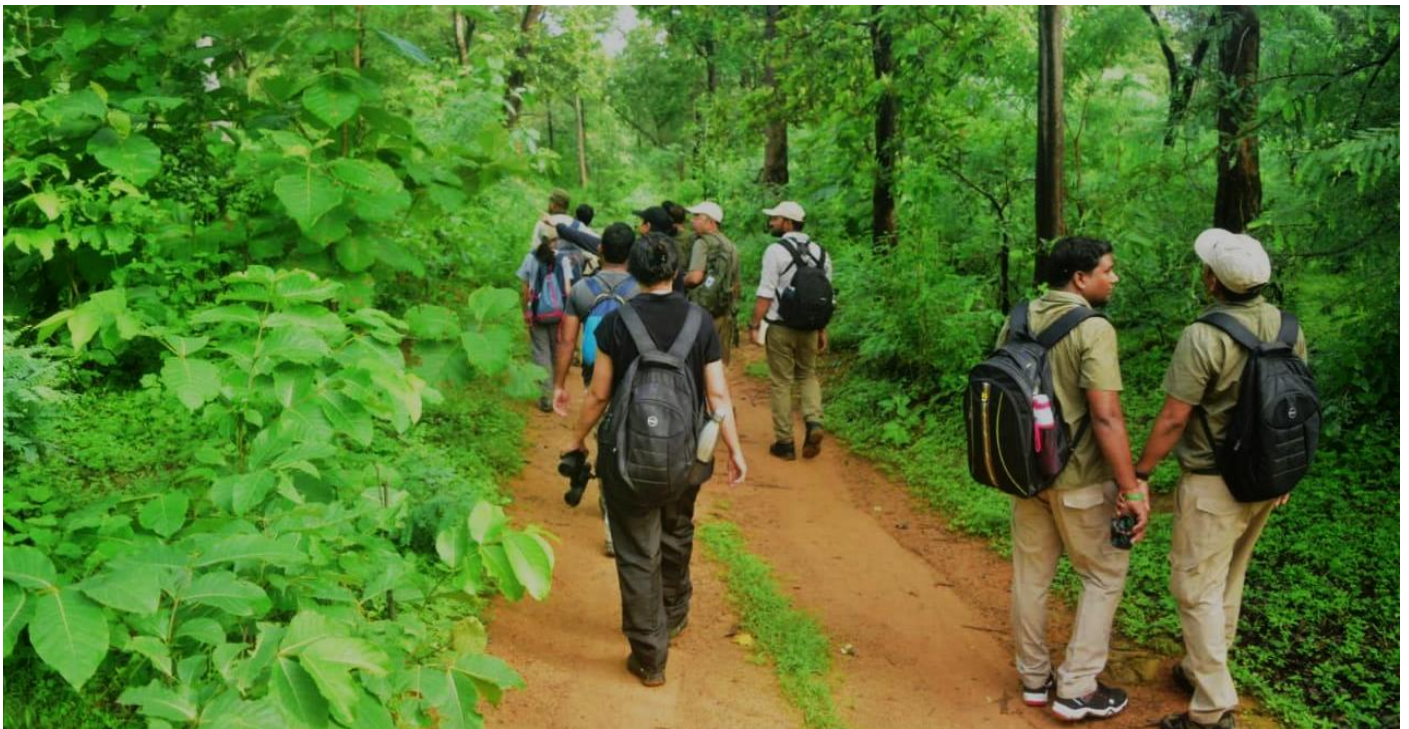
- Guided course delivery from subject experts
- Thorough classroom sessions and practical sessions in the wilderness.
- Excellent opportunity of peer learning through engagement
- First hand exposure into the actual life of a naturalist
- Certificate of accomplishment

Who Should Join

- Are you keen on expanding your scientific knowledge about forests, flora and fauna?
- Are you looking to boost your career as a professional guide or conservationist?
- Do you wish to change your routine and experience the distantly fascinating life in a wilderness setting?

Opening new doors

Professional Naturalist Training program is essential for those wanting to pursue a wildlife and conservation orientated career. It helps upgrade the life skills and discipline needed for nature reserve jobs, or a future as a professional field guide, or a wildlife tour leader. For those with experience in wildlife education and tourism, or with qualification in hospitality, or environmental sciences, PRONAT helps set the stage and shape the skills professionally required in the wildlife tourism industry.



The Wilderness Experience with PRONAT

Explorers and enthusiasts who wish to learn more about Indian wildlife, or kick-start their career as nature guides and lodge naturalists, are welcome to apply. The enriching experience of peer learning and professional guidance, while living in a remote boot camp is a life altering experience.

For those who are looking to ditch the routine city life for the wilderness, PRONAT will provide quintessential techniques for inculcating new hobbies like species identification, interpreting tracks and signs, or learning first-aid in the forests.

- Life in the camp will be an adventure for the ones who are passionate about nature and can minimally appreciate lack of internet, as much as the presence of it.
- The candidates should be willing to learn from the experts, and the experiences of their peers (forest life is about team work and upgrading life skills).
- Experts will deliver lectures in English. An understanding and speaking fluency in the English language is a must.
- Candidates joining PRONAT, who wish to take up guiding as a profession must obtain a valid LMV driving license prior to the commencement of the course. This is mandatory for candidates taking the extension for guiding techniques.
- Though one of the modules of the course covers reptiles, but participants are prohibited from handling any form of wildlife including snakes and amphibians.
- We do not cover snake handling, and therefore do not encourage the participants to handle any form of wildlife even after undertaking the course.
- Candidates joining with the purpose of exploring and expanding their knowledge on wildlife, must be willing and enthusiastic towards the course curriculum.
- At the end of a course, candidates will be required to take a practical and theoretical examination. The qualifying candidates will be rewarded with a completion certificate.



About us and trainers

“Wildlife & Forestry Services”, a professional wildlife management & forestry consultancy firm in association with “Pugdundee Safaris”, a leading sustainable wildlife tourism company organises this unique wildlife training course.

Wing Leader – Kartikeya Singh is the course coordinator and lead trainer.

Associate trainers are Nikhil Bhopale, Nariman Vazifdar and Vikram Ahlawat.



Kartikeya Singh – Kartikeya holds a Master’s Degree in Ecology & Environment and has eight years of research experience working with Wildlife Institute of India during which he studied the ecology of Indian Wolves and the Asiatic Lions. Kartikeya has also worked as an additional photographer on several documentaries produced by BBC and other eminent production

houses. A proficient trapper of wolves and other canids, he has expertise in catching, anaesthetising and radio collaring wild animals. In 2011, he was one of the specialists involved in the reintroducing Gaur from Kanha to Bandhavgarh. Kartikeya is also a specialist trainer who regularly conducts training for frontline forest department staff, guides and naturalists.

Nikhil Bhopale – Nikhil has worked on several research projects as an Ornithologist and Herpetologist. He has spear-headed effective conservation projects across India and has been a recipient of several awards for nature conservation. A biodiversity expert, an eco-tourism consultant, a hands-on mentor, an experienced trekker, a knowledgeable author, a



wildlife photographer and above all, a committed conservationist, Nikhil has been a faculty for BNHS educational courses and also co-authored ‘**Book of the Indian Subcontinent – A Field Guide**’ published by BNHS and Oxford University Press.



Gowri Shankar is a wildlife biologist studying king cobras for close to two decades. He is enrolled as a Ph.D. candidate at North Orissa University, Odisha, India and is a former exchange student at Uppsala University, Sweden. His interest lay in Evolutionary Biology and is studying the phylogeography of king cobras across southeast Asia. He has authored and co-authored 11 scientific papers on king cobras (6 were part of a special issue) for the 'Hamadryad', a leading herpetological journal. As a field biologist, he has been studying the natural history of king cobras for over a decade at Agumbe. As part of his study, he has rescued and relocated over 350 king cobras from distress situations and monitored over 35 king cobra nests. He was instrumental in initiating the pioneering radio telemetry study on king cobras and was able to discover the secret life of king cobras.

Vikram Ahlawat - is a Master Trainer with RLSS (Royal Life Saving Society) since 2009, which is one of our country's leading organizations for First Aid and Life Guard training. An avid swimmer and sportsman, Vikram has a varied experience in life saving trainings.



What will you learn

As a stepping-stone into the world of natural systems, diversity in subjects has been at the core of the course design. Candidates are provided introduction to the following subjects:

Birds

Butterflies

Amphibians

Field guiding as a profession

(Only in extension)

Help creating a guided nature experience

(Only in Extension)

Techniques of Guiding (Only in extension)

Reptiles

Trees

Mammals

Animal behaviour

Conservation management

Camera trapping

Tracks & Signs

Animal tracking



Modules covered

Module 1 Birds

Module 2 Butterflies

Module 3 Reptiles

Module 4 Amphibians

Module 5 Mammals

Module 6 Trees

Module 7 Tracks & Signs

Module 8 First Aid

Module 9 Conservation

Module 10 Understanding guest and their expectation – **Only in extension**

Module 11 Techniques of Guiding and the guiding sequence – **Only in extension**

Module 12 Visual Aids, Behavioural Aspects, Do's and Don'ts & Miscellaneous – **Only in extension**



Living on campus

The camp is set up in the premises of Denwa Backwater Escape (a Pugdundee Safaris Lodge in

Accommodation	Triple sharing (same gender sharing) with attached facilities
Location	Denwa Backwater Escape adjoining Satpura Tiger Reserve.
Meals	Three simple home cooked meals along with morning and evening tea.
Laundry	Available and chargeable
Air conditioning	No
Basic Housekeeping	Provided

What to carry

- Earthy coloured, outdoor clothing
- Personal clothing (6–8 sets)
- Outdoor footwear for walking and floaters
- Guide books (mammals, birds, trees, reptiles, amphibians & butterflies)
- Laptop
- Camera (with spare batteries) /tripod/monopod
- Binoculars and Torch
- Light fleece
- Rain gear (ponchos/parasols)
- Water bottle
- Notebooks
- Working internet connection (only BSNL and Jio work at Satpura)

Reaching the campus

Satpura Tiger Reserve is well connected from all parts of India by road, air and rail.

- It is 136 kms south east of Bhopal, the closest airport to Satpura.
- Itarsi is a prominent railway junction with trains from all across the country and is just 70 kms away.
- Sohagpur is the nearest railway station around 18km away.
- Satpura is just 19 kms from a prominent state highway and 70 kms away from the national highway 12

Rules & Regulations

Candidates joining the course are expected to abide by the PRONAT rules and regulations. Candidates are expected to thoroughly read the attached consent form and acknowledge the same with date and signatures.

- Adhere to the timings and instructions provided by the course coordinator.
- Possession and use of alcohol and any form of drugs is strictly prohibited on the campus.
- Smokers will have to declare in advance. Smoking in common areas and accommodation is prohibited.
- Refrain from any form of sexual- misconduct.
- At the time of submission of form, send us a copy of Aadhar card and license.
- Cancellation policy applies
- Candidates joining PRONAT will have to sign an indemnity bond.

Certification

Over the course duration, all participants will undertake written tests, oral presentations and practical evaluations (walk evaluation and drive evaluation) to receive a field guide certification from the course coordinator on completion of the program.

Fees

If enrolled by 31st March 2021

(subject to availability on first come first serve basis)

Main course (21-nights / 22-days)

On triple sharing: INR 78000 + plus GST per person

Single room can be booked at a supplement of INR 48000 + plus GST

Extension (03-nights / 04-days) – for additional modules

On triple sharing: INR 13500 + plus GST per person

Single room can be booked at a supplement of INR 9000 + plus GST

If enrolled post 31st March 2021

Main course (21-nights / 22-days)

On triple sharing: INR 85000 + plus GST per person

Single room can be booked at a supplement of INR 52000 + plus GST

Extension (03-nights / 04-days) – for additional modules

On triple sharing: INR 13500 + plus GST per person

Single room can be booked at a supplement of INR 9000 + plus GST

Seats available – 18

To enroll, you are required to deposit 25% fee at the time of filling the application form.

Balance amount is payable latest by 18th June, 2021.

Cancellation policy:

1. Initial deposit once paid is non refundable
2. 50% cancellation charges between 31-59 days from the commencement of course
3. 100% cancellation charges within 30 days from the commencement of course

Bank details:

Account Name: Wildlife and Forestry Services

Account Number: 34142497348

IFSC Code: SBIN0030288

Bank: State Bank of India

Branch: Fazalpura, Ujjain

Type: Current Account

Inclusions

- Triple sharing (same gender sharing) in standard rooms with attached facilities.
- Three simple home cooked meals along with morning and evening tea.
- Safaris in buffer zones for training purpose.
- Nature walk, indoor and outdoor learning sessions.
- Scheduled training classes.
- Course material.

Calendar

Training Calendar (20th August to 13th September'2021)

Training Calendar (20th August to 13th September 2021)							
DATE	20/8/2021	21/8/2021	22/8/2021	23/8/2021	24/8/2021	25/8/2021	26/8/2021
Modules	Introductions & Ice Breakers	Module 1 Trees	Module 1 Trees	Module 2 Mammals	Module 2 Mammals	Module 3 Reptiles	Module 3 Reptiles
DATE	27/8/2021	28/8/2021	29/8/2021	30/8/2021	31/8/2021	1/9/2021	2/9/2021
Modules	Module 3 Reptiles	Module 4 Amphibians	Module 4 Amphibians	Module 5 Birds	Module 5 Birds	Module 5 Birds	Module 5 Birds
DATE	3/9/2021	4/9/2021	5/9/2021	6/9/2021	7/9/2021	8/9/2021	9/9/2021
Modules	Module 6 Butterflies	Module 6 Butterflies	Module 7 First Aid	Module 7 First Aid	Module 7 First Aid	Module 7 First Aid	Module 8 Conservation
DATE	10/9/2021	11/9/2021	12/9/2021	13/9/2021			
Modules	Conclusion	Module 9 Guiding	Module 9 Guiding	Module 9 Guiding Conclusion			



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